(b) if So, the details of judicial officers including magistrates, who have been given powers to attest documents/papers;

(c) whether powers of attestation have been given through Government orders/ notifications; and

(d) if so, the details of Government orders/notifications issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards

666. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to issue electors' photo indentity cards round the year;

(b) if so, by when the scheme would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) is issued either through permanent centres set up in some States/Union Territories, which work round the year or, in case of some States/Union Territories, through special EPIC campaign undertaken by opening Designated Photography Locations (DPLs) for specified periods during a year. In States/ Union Territories having permanent centres, special EPIC campaign may also be undertaken in addition to maximize EPIC coverage.

(c) Does not arise.

Creation of Special Mining Zones

667. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to identify mineral rich areas in various States and to give blankets approvals, to develop them as Special Mining Zones (SMZs);

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fast allocation of SMZs to prospective captive industries in steel and power sectors would result in higher GDP growth; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concessions. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of mineral concession for minerals in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, and the same is conveyed by the Central Government to the State Government after evaluating the merits of the mineral concession proposal on case to case basis.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the reply given to (a) and (b) above.